

Interim Ecosystem Management Guidelines

WUP Management Unit

Including Escanaba, Ishpeming, Baraga and Crystal Falls Forest Areas

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#### Undivided Interest Lands:

##### Assumptions/Discussion:

Most of these lands were acquired by the state through tax reversion. Most are located in Iron County (6,200 acres). Because of the logistics of dealing with other vested owners, management of these lands is difficult administratively. These lands do provide public recreational opportunities, and therefore are valuable state assets.

##### Interim guidelines:

1. A general inventory of undivided interest lands will be undertaken, using a combination of resources: maps generated from SIRC, plat maps, aerial photography and local knowledge. (At this point, detailed operations inventory will not be done).
2. **FMFMD** will aid in obtaining ownership records—names of other owners and their amount of interest, as well as the amount of State interest (to compare with REIS records)—as needed/time permits.
3. Fish, Wildlife and Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Divisions will prioritize parcels based on the following criteria/values:
  - contiguous to other State land
  - other adjacent/contiguous public parcels
  - past/present use (i.e. grazing, mining, etc.)
  - water frontage
  - location compared to present forest boundaries; dedicated vs. undedicated lands
  - any unique resources
  - wildlife management goals
  - timber management
  - local ordinances or limitations restricting certain management techniques
  - access
  - logistics

#### 4. Management:

- Those parcels considered **high** priority by all divisions would be pursued for acquisition. (More in-depth inventory should be considered at this point.)
- Parcels considered a low priority by all divisions shall be considered excess and will be disposed of by trade or auction.

#### Records Generated:

1. Maps and/or list of parcels in which the State has undivided interest. This list will include the following information:
  - Location
  - List of other owners and their interest, and the State's interest
  - Each division's priority for retaining ownership
  - Any comments from divisions related to their rating (reason why they gave it a high/low rating)
2. List of all high priority stands
3. List of all low priority stands